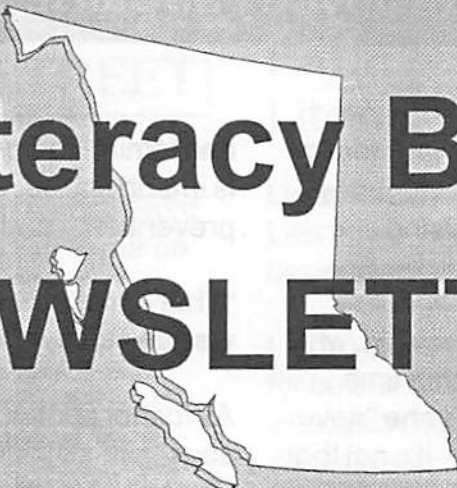




Literacy B.C. NEWSLETTER

August 1997

Volume 3, Number 3

Interview with Literacy's Joyce Fairbairn

In 1993 the Prime Minister appointed Joyce Fairbairn the first Cabinet Minister with Special Responsibility for Literacy and Leader of the Government in the Senate. Following the June 1997 federal election, she resigned as Senate Leader but remains an active advocate for literacy issues. Literacy B.C. interviewed the Senator from her Ottawa office recently and asked her to tell us about her work in literacy.

Joyce Fairbairn became a Senator from Alberta in 1984 after working for six years as a journalist and 14 years as senior legislative advisor to Prime Minister Trudeau. One of her first acts as a Senator was to join the Special Senate Committee on Youth which toured the country that year.

During these hearings, the committee heard about youth concerns such as unemployment, poverty and family breakdown, from children, parents, teachers and others, and -- unexpectedly, she recalls -- about literacy and learning disabilities. She says this

experience was the catalyst that started her thinking about literacy.

"I was absolutely haunted by this because it hadn't surfaced before," she says. "In terms of a national debate, the issue simply wasn't there." She decided to become more knowledgeable and "do something to bring literacy to the forefront."

By 1987, Southam had decided to publish its groundbreaking series of articles which measured and reported on the literacy levels of Canadian adults. The 40-part series appeared in dozens of Canadian newspapers and was reprinted as a book, "Broken Words." Fairbairn recalls that the series caused quite a stir. That year she initiated debate on literacy in the Senate.

"The Southam report stunned some people," says Fairbairn. The federal government took action and the National Literacy Secretariat

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Interview with Joyce Fairbairn...continued

was formed in 1988. International Literacy Year, following in 1990, "gave everybody goals to achieve in terms of raising awareness."

Along with others like Peter Gzowski, who began the PGIs around the same time (1988), Senator Fairbairn says she "never put a political label on literacy—it's not that kind of an issue."

"Awareness is primary" is the Senator's response when asked about her significant achievements during the last ten years. She cites the Statistics Canada Survey of Literacy Skills Used in Daily Activities (LSUDA) and the more recent International Adult Literacy Survey (IALS) in 1996, in which Canada participated, as proof of much higher levels of awareness.

Fairbairn considers her role in raising awareness as a significant achievement. In her political life, she says, she "has worked very hard within my party to make it an issue, in the 1988 election and again in 1993. You start where you are, within your own family and just relentlessly keep pushing your issue."

Another advancement she's proud of is the establishment of the Office of Learning Technologies, which was part of her responsibilities, with the NLS, under Human Resources Development Canada.

The increase in NLS funding announced in this year's federal budget means that "now we can take advantage of this additional money, which will be ongoing. The increase will be very much targeted to workplace

and family literacy programs. Family literacy is important because it hinges on prevention—and that's where it starts."

"That—the 31% increase in NLS funding—was an achievement," she says.

As for her continuing role, Senator Fairbairn says, "we still have a long way to go in Canada. A lot of people don't realize the extent of the varying degrees of difficulty." (IALS statistics indicate that more than 40% of working age people have a hard time with the everyday demands of reading, writing and using numbers).

In the future, she hopes to have "more opportunity particularly to meet learners." She says the change she's seen in the role of learners at both the national and provincial levels in ten years is "quite phenomenal." Learners are creating a higher profile for themselves, "becoming active parts of the solution, and this will ultimately contribute to our success."

"In B.C., there is a good mix of literacy programs," says Senator Fairbairn. "It will be a challenge to continue the work." She says B.C. "has contributed enormously to literacy in Canada," and describes the province as, "a leader in the country, along with western Canada generally."

While there are no plans yet confirmed for her to come west, "I would like to come out to say thank-you to B.C. I really look forward to it.

I'm one partner who will be there—all the way."



Taking the Initiative on Workforce Literacy

B.C.'s Workforce Literacy Initiative, funded by the National Literacy Secretariat, is Literacy B.C.'s newest campaign to raise awareness, build partnerships and stimulate activity around workforce literacy.

The development of a B.C. Workforce Literacy Advisory Council is key to the Initiative. A voluntary coalition of business, labour, education and government representatives, the Council will assist Literacy B.C. to promote workforce literacy among its various stakeholder groups. So far, Council members include: The Business Council of B.C., MacMillan Bloedel, Gallagher & Associates, Vancouver Community College, the B.C. Federation of Labour, the Ministry of Education, Skills and Training, the B.C. Construction Industry Skills Improvement Council and Labour Force Development Consultant, Stu Noble.

Working with the Council, Literacy B.C. will be staging a variety of special events over the next 12 months. Called ***Literacy at Work in B.C.***, these events include a Field Networking Session for workforce literacy practitioners; a Symposium for leaders in business, labour, education and government; and a series of Community Forums throughout the province.

As part of its new initiative, Literacy B.C. will be expanding its workforce literacy information and consulting services. Our inventory of resource materials, available on loan, is growing. A newsletter, called

Working on Literacy, will premiere in December, 1997. Semi-annual issues will feature program profiles, interviews, events schedules, and topical editorials about workforce literacy.

Literacy B.C. will continue to work directly with various stakeholder groups—helping business and labour access the resources to launch workforce literacy initiatives, working with adult educators to increase and enhance opportunities for workforce literacy practice, and identifying ways government might improve the effectiveness of programs and strategies that relate or contribute to workforce literacy.

Literacy at Work in B.C.

Literacy B.C. and the B.C. Workforce Literacy Advisory Council are planning two special events this fall to coincide with an international policy conference on literacy being held at the Hotel Vancouver Nov. 4-7, 1997. The two ***Literacy at Work in B.C.*** events will be held at the same time as delegates from the 29 member nations of the Organization for Economic Cooperative Development (OECD) meet to further explore the implications of the International Adult Literacy Survey (IALS). The OECD was a partner with Statistics Canada in producing the IALS research.

Literacy at Work in B.C. -- A Field Networking Session, Nov. 4 at the Hotel Vancouver, will give those already involved in workforce literacy an

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opportunity to share information and explore solutions to the common challenges experienced in the field. OECD delegates will join the Session in the afternoon when a showcase of workforce literacy programs is planned.

Literacy at Work in B.C. – A Symposium, Nov. 5, also at the Hotel Vancouver, will involve leaders in business, labour, education and government in a series of panel discussions around the need to join forces in upgrading the skills of B.C.'s

workforce. Panelists include, among many others: Ken Georgetti, President of the B.C. Federation of Labour; Jock Finlayson, Vice President of the Business Council of B.C., and John Cruickshank, President of Vancouver Community College. A VIP dinner with OECD delegates is planned for the evening.

For registration and other details, contact:
Stacey Huget
Workforce Literacy Coordinator
Phone: 1-800-663-1293

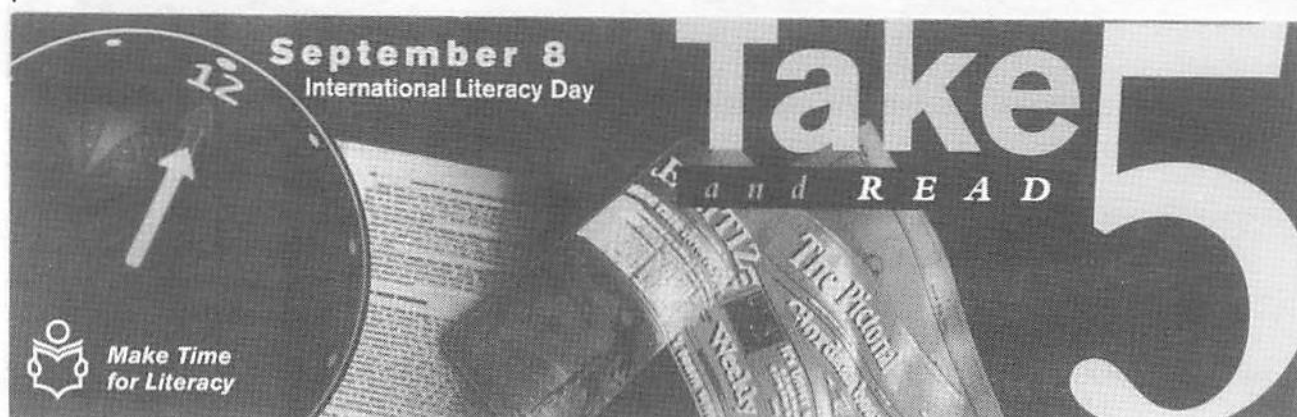
First National Workforce Literacy Conference

Canadians interested in workforce literacy issues won't want to miss **Moving Forward: A Forum on Workplace Education**. Hosted by ABC CANADA's Workplace Education Centre in collaboration with business, government, labour and education partners, the event runs from Sunday, November 30 to Tuesday, December 2, 1997 at the Toronto Colony Hotel.

The first national conference of its kind, **Moving Forward** offers a unique opportunity to meet with others involved in workforce literacy and to share ideas and experiences, explore issues in depth, and gain new insights into the latest developments in this rapidly growing field. The three-day program features keynote speakers, roundtable and forum discussions, exhibits, and site tours.

For registration and others details, visit the ABC CANADA website at: www.abc-canada.org
or call the Workplace Education Centre.
Phone: 1-800-303-1004.

INTERNATIONAL LITERACY DAY . . . Take 5 and READ



Once again, Literacy B.C. and the B.C. Library Association (BCLA) are joining forces to sponsor the annual **Take 5 and READ** campaign in B.C. for International Literacy Day on September 8.

The message of the campaign urges every British Columbian "to stop what you're doing — pick up a book, community newspaper, anything — and READ" on this special day.

Across the province, libraries, community literacy groups and students will be hosting events to celebrate literacy and to draw attention to the importance of literacy in our everyday lives.

Literacy B.C. and the BCLA distributed **Take 5 and READ** information kits to community literacy organizations, schools, colleges, and community newspapers throughout the province in mid-August. The kits contain posters, bookmarks, media releases, and suggestions for activities to raise public awareness, including:

- ◆ mall and library displays, book sales
- ◆ local celebrities reading from their favourite works
- ◆ learners reading from their work
- ◆ recognizing companies and organizations that use clearly written and easy to understand labelling and advertising

A special thank you to **Quebecor Printing Vancouver** for donating the printed materials -- posters and bookmarks.

Other sponsors of the **Take 5 and READ** campaign in B.C. are:

- ◆ B.C. and Yukon Community Newspapers Association
- ◆ Canada Post Corporation
- ◆ Laubach Literacy of Canada (B.C.)
- ◆ Library Services Branch, Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing
- ◆ Project Literacy Greater Vancouver
- ◆ Vancouver Public Library

If you did not receive a kit, call Literacy B.C. at 1-800-663-1293 (toll free). ☐

Stamp-with-a-hole raises funds for family literacy



Family literacy programs in B.C. will get a financial boost from the province's share of funds raised by the ABC CANADA/Canada Post special family literacy stamp campaign.

The campaign raised more than \$252,000 across Canada through sales of the "stamp with a hole", which sold for 50 cents (45 cents in postage and a five cent donation to literacy). B.C.'s share of the total is \$16,033.

The funds will be distributed to existing family literacy programs or projects. In areas where such programs do not exist, funds may be used for new initiatives.

A total of 5,055,979 stamps were sold since the September 1996 launch of the

campaign. ABC CANADA received over \$2 million in media donations to promote family literacy and sales of the stamp. The donations came from radio and television networks and other media and marketing organizations.

Provincial literacy coalitions across Canada will receive and distribute their province's portions of the funds. Literacy B.C. is currently developing criteria and guidelines for distribution of the funds here.

For more information, contact:

Linda Mitchell, Executive Director
Literacy B.C.

Phone: 1-800-663-1293

Fax: (604) 684-8520

Email: l_mitchell@douglas.bc.ca 

Meet Flo Charest, 1997 Learner Award Winner

William M. Mercer, the world's largest employee benefits, communication, compensation and retirement consulting firm, has taken its commitment to literacy in B.C. very seriously. They believe that helping people improve their literacy skills will make our community a better place to work and live.

We are honoured to have William M. Mercer as the sponsor for the 1997 Provincial Learner Award. The award recognizes the outstanding achievements of an adult learner in B.C.

The winner of the 1997 William M. Mercer Learner Award will honour the memory of her daughter when she graduates next year.

Flo Charest, 44, a student in the ABE program at the College of the Rockies in Fernie, was selected as winner of the \$500 award by a committee of adult learners last month. She will receive the award at the Literacy B.C. Annual General Meeting in November.

Flo says she returned to school four years ago "because my daughter always encouraged me to. She never got to finish school herself, because she died a year before her own graduation in a car accident. So when I graduate, I'm going to be doing it for her too."

After she was laid off from her job at Sears in 1993, Flo began working on her English and math with a tutor she met while taking computer courses in Fernie. Her tutor encouraged her to enrol in the ABE program at the college. That was the beginning of Flo's love affair with learning.

In her speech at the Walk for Literacy in Fernie last year, Flo said, "It was hard at first. I couldn't believe how low my reading comprehension level was. Yes, I could read the words. But more often than not I didn't have a clue of the meaning of those words, or sentences or stories."

"I just kept on going," Flo says. "I started from nothing and look what I have now." When she graduates next year, Flo plans to enrol in a long term care aide program. Her ambition is to get a job nursing the elderly.

While at the college, Flo won a most improved ABE student award, and made the President's list. Her marks are in the high A's. Flo is sometimes invited to speak to other ABE classes at the college to offer support and encouragement.

Flo has a message for other learners: "If there is one thing I have learned by taking the ABE program, it is this. The brain is like a muscle. If you do not exercise it, it will become weak.... Knowledge is power and can open many doors. And the one way for you or me or anyone to gain that power is by walking into the college and signing up for classes."

As a bonus says Flo, who works during the summer while in ABE, the program has "helped me write a good resume and get summer jobs." As well, she adds, "going to school keeps you fit!"

Pushing the Edges

Adult educators will meet in Kelowna this fall to "push the edges" at a professional development event sponsored by the Adult Basic Education Association of B.C.

"Pushing the Edges" will take place September 26 - 27 at Okanagan University College. Some of the ten workshops are:

◆ **Using the Net in ABE.** A hands-on workshop to explore the net as a research and networking tool.

◆ **Developing an International Adult Education Facilitator Training Program.** Explore the successes,

challenges and results of adult educator training in an international context.

◆ **Brain Research and its Implication for Adult Educators.** Current research on how the brain works and develops, and practical ideas for creating "brain-friendly" curricula for adult learners.

For more information, contact:

Patty Bossort
Phone: (250) 358-2745
Fax: (250) 358-2746
Don Sawyer
Phone: (250) 832-2126
Fax: (250) 832-4368

Job Profiling Essential Skills

Workforce educators are invited to attend a three day training session in Vancouver this fall on **"Job Profiling Essential Skills"** in the workplace.

The training session will examine research undertaken by Human Resources Development Canada (HRDC) on profiles of occupational classifications and the essential skills required to perform jobs within these classifications. It is sponsored by the B.C. Construction Industry Skills Improvement Council -- SkillPlan -- and funded by the National Literacy Secretariat.

Topics include: learning to define job-specific essential skills; the research methodology of the HRDC project and its practical application; and how job profiling has been used in the past.

For more information or to register, contact:

Lynda Fownes
B.C. Construction Industry Skills Improvement Council
4303 Canada Way
Burnaby, B.C.
V5G 1J3
Phone: (604) 436-1126
Fax: (604) 437-7539
Email: skilplan@axionet.com

So Far: words from learners

Edited by Jean Bennett, Richard Jaccoma, and Lee Weinstein. Photographs by Ann E. Yow. Produced by the Community Language Access Society in partnership with the Open Learning Agency.

*We began this project because we believed it would be exciting to create a stage for people who are rarely heard. **So Far** is one result of our work with a group of learners over the space of a year -- interviewing, conducting one-on-*

one and group discussions, running a monthly writing workshop. The personal challenges our contributors face range from Downs Syndrome and brain injury, to cerebral palsy and other neurological conditions . . . The themes in this book are universal -- love, search for community, the struggle to overcome a lifetime of negative labelling and find meaning in one's existence.

From the Foreword by Lee Weinstein



Margaret Mercier whose story is told in *So Far*.

"My parents had always told me that I was good for nothing and I could never do anything right. I never had support, so I never would want to try anything. But now I've made friends who tell me that I can do things, so it gives me confidence in myself. Before I came out here I didn't know who I was or where I was going or what I was doing. Now I know who I am and I know what I want and I know I can achieve it with the support of my friends, my school friends, the teachers, my church friends, and just ordinary people."

***Community Success Stories
from British Columbia and
Around the World***

*By June Dragman and Michael Szasz
Produced by CoDevelopment Canada*

This book presents stories of people who are working together in B.C. and other parts of the world to improve their lives and their communities.

The book is divided into three sections:

- ◆ Sharing the Land, Sharing the Food

- ◆ Building Healthy Communities
- ◆ Cooperating in Business and the Community

Copies are available from Literacy B.C. while supplies last, or order from:

CoDevelopment Canada
205 - 2929 Commercial Drive
Vancouver, B.C. V5N 4C8

Phone: (604) 708-1495

Fax: (604) 708-1497

Email: codev@web.net



Shuswap Barter Network helps build a strong community

The Shuswap Barter Network, in the Shuswap area of B.C., has over 100 active participants. At the heart of the organization is the belief that "everyone's work is equal." One hour of work can be exchanged, or bartered, for another hour of work.

The network uses a money system called "shuSwap Hours." (Swap means to exchange something.) "The shuSwap Hour note is a piece of paper that is slightly larger than a Canadian \$10 bill." Each Hour is worth \$10. People use the shuSwap Hour to barter or exchange goods or services with other members of the barter network.

Novels for Adult Learners

Sponsored by The Centre for Curriculum, Transfer and Technology
in partnership with the Open Learning Agency

by Don Sawyer

***The Buckle
Crocodiles and Rivers
Frozen Tears***

This is a series of six short novels written especially for adult learners.

The three books in the series by Kate Ferris were written in consultation with the ABE classes at the Selkirk College Learning Centre in Nakusp.

by Kate Ferris

***The Mailbox
The Scowling Frog
Three Wise Men***

Books may be borrowed from Literacy B.C. or ordered for \$9.95 each (plus GST and shipping) from:

Open Learning Agency
Marketing Department
4355 Mathissi Place
Burnaby, B.C. V5G 4S8

Phone: 1-800-663-1653
Fax: (604) 431-3381



The Scowling Frog

Nathan and Pozzi are in trouble. They have stolen something sacred. The spirits are angry, and so is the sea. In a few minutes they could be swept overboard. The waves are growing ever higher. Alice is busy bailing water over the side. Her long dark hair whips across her face. Both Pozzi and Nathan are in love with her. Both of them have lied to her. But there is something more important right now. In a boat holding three people, there are only two life jackets.

NEW RESOURCES . . . from B.C. literacy cost-shared projects

Interline Writing Lab: Instructor Guidelines

By Janet Gibson, Robert Wedel, and Don Bentley. Sponsored by Capilano College and the University College of the Fraser Valley.

This guide describes a project that used technology to create a writing community among learners in two B.C. community colleges.

The Interline Writing Lab was designed to help adult learners develop writing fluency and increase their ability to communicate via computer. The project also facilitated collaboration and peer editing among students at different colleges.

Through the use of a modem/telephone line connection and specialized software, students at Capilano College and the University College of the Fraser Valley were able to communicate on the computer screen in "real time." The Lab also gave them the opportunity to expand their editing or writing skills by reading and responding on-line to each other's work.

A limited number of copies are available from Literacy B.C.

Call: 1-800-663-1293.

THE LITERACY MATERIALS **BULLETIN**



15

Spring 1997

The Spring 1997 issue of the Literacy Materials Bulletin contains reviews of eleven materials including: a series of math workbooks; a picture dictionary; poetry lessons for teachers and tutors; a collection of animated films; and two encyclopedias on CD-ROM.

Copies of *Bulletin* #15, as well as the previous 14 issues, are available from Literacy B.C. Materials recommended in all issues of the *Bulletin* can be borrowed from Literacy B.C.

Phone: 1-800-663-1293.

The Reading and Parenting Program: Strengthening literacy skills through parent involvement

By Garth Greatheart for Project Literacy Victoria. Funded by the National Literacy Secretariat

This family literacy manual is designed to strengthen parents' and children's literacy skills through shared reading activities.

The manual describes the Reading and Parenting program at Project Literacy Victoria and includes facilitator notes and handouts on topics such as:

- ◆ Parents as Educators
- ◆ Early Childhood Development
- ◆ Temperament, Self-Esteem, and Learning Styles
- ◆ Communications and Emotional Development
- ◆ Children's Behaviour
- ◆ Daycare, Preschool, and Kindergarten

Real Life Learning Kits

- ◆ ***Budgeting and Banking***
- ◆ ***Family Law***
- ◆ ***Health and Nutrition***
- ◆ ***Tenants' Rights and Affordable Housing***

This series of four kits provides information in plain language for tutors and learners. Each topic is presented in a separate folder that includes learning activities, definitions, and a comments page.

Project Literacy Victoria suggests that organizations develop their own resource binders to accompany each of the kits. The binders could contain brochures, newspaper articles, application forms, and other relevant information.

Borrow these resources from Literacy B.C. or order from:

Project Literacy Victoria
930A Yates Street
Victoria, B.C. V8V 4Z3
Phone: (250) 381-3755
Fax: (250) 381-4911

A new print catalogue celebrates a decade of achievement by the B.C. literacy community.

The publication of *Ten Years of Literacy Partnerships in British Columbia: A Catalogue of Adult Literacy Federal-Provincial Cost-Shared Projects* from 1987-1997 marks the tenth year of the adult literacy cost-shared program in B.C. The program was initiated in 1987 to "encourage active involvement of all sectors of society - governments, voluntary groups, educational institutions, business and labour - in activities which enhance, improve and support literacy education."

The book was produced by Langara College for the National Literacy Secretariat, the B.C. Ministry of Education, Skills and Training, and the Centre for Curriculum, Transfer and Technology. It has been widely distributed to the literacy field.

The 285 page book describes the products of almost 200 cost-shared projects on topics such as: Aboriginal/ First Nations literacy; correctional programs and literacy; intergenerational/ family literacy; literacy instruction and learning materials; research; public awareness; professional development; and student-initiated writings, among others.

The book is a print edition of an on-line catalogue found on QuERI (**Quality Educational Resources Inventory**), a database of over 1,300 multi-media literacy, vocational and academic resources developed in B.C. [See box

below for information about how to access QuERI.]

Both the print and on-line catalogues give practitioners the opportunity to search and browse for materials which may be useful to them, says Audrey Thomas, Project Officer, Developmental Programs, Ministry of Education, Skills and Training. The cataloguing is "a tribute to the creativity and hard work of the literacy practitioners and learners whose efforts have crystallized in the products represented in these catalogues. A key to the history of adult literacy in B.C. over the last decade can be found within these resources," says Thomas.

Limited copies of the print catalogue are available from Literacy B.C. The materials listed in the catalogue can also be borrowed from Literacy B.C. Phone: 1-800-663-1293.

How do you access QuERI?

Telnet to: <library.langara.bc.ca>. The login is <qri>.

In addition to the cost-shared materials catalogued on QuERI, descriptions of all funded cost-shared projects from 1987 - 1997, and the reviews which have appeared in the *Literacy Materials Bulletin*, are available on-line at Langara College's ftp site:
>ftp.langara.bc.ca/pub/qri/qri-literacy>

If you have a web browser, you can read about the literacy projects and use a hot link directly to the Telnet site by going to:
<http://www.est.gov.bc.ca/ahp/projects>



LITERACY COST-SHARED PROGRAM . . . A New Year of Projects

The B.C. Ministry of Education, Skills and Training and the National Literacy Secretariat are funding 66 literacy cost-shared projects in B.C. for 1997/98.

The project activities include: provincial services; regional coordination; access and outreach; electronic networking; aboriginal literacy; family literacy; development of learning materials; professional development; and research.

In addition, for the second year, the provincial portion of the cost-shared program includes funding for program delivery. This is a direct response to recommendations made by the B.C. literacy field at a consultation held in October 1995 to re-examine the cost-shared project process. Twenty-one projects in 11 regions of B.C. will deliver literacy services to First Nations adults, French language speakers, shoreworkers, people with learning disabilities, and intellectually challenged adults, among others.

Some of the 1997/98 funded projects are:

Special Program for Adults with Disabilities

This program-based research project will assist adults with phonological awareness deficit, an auditory learning disability. Adults with phonological awareness deficit may have been unsuccessful in upgrading their literacy skills in the past. The research will see if adults can overcome this difficulty in a group setting and if that will assist them in learning to read and spell. Two classes

for six students each will be offered. A booklet on the teaching method and the results of the research will be produced. (Douglas College, Learning Disabilities Association of B.C. - Vancouver Chapter).

P4 Literacy

This project will promote communication and mutual support between adult literacy students by using the Internet. The students will produce a booklet to share information with other literacy students about what they have learned and the skills they have developed. The project will also form a pilot site for the development of a provincial learner electronic chat-line and the students will take a leading role in moderating on-line discussions. (Malaspina University College, Project Literacy Parksville/Qualicum, Literacy B.C.)

Teaching Literacy Through the Elder's Voice

A book of elders' stories called *When I Was Young* will be produced, along with fundamental and intermediate teachers' guides. Students will interview elders, transcribe tapes, and work with staff to edit the stories to the publishing stage. Students and staff will desktop publish the book together. (Northern Lights College, Saulneau First Nations.)

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"A New Year of Projects" continued from page 15

Families Learning Together

A family literacy program will be piloted at the Fraser Lake Adult Learning Centre. The three-hour evening program will run weekly and involve: nutrition, food preparation and budgeting information; separate instructional time for children and their parents; and time together for parents and children to engage together in learning activities. Parents will have the opportunity to explore methods and tools that will enable them to create positive home experiences which encourage and support family literacy. (College of New Caledonia; Nechako Literacy Society; School District #91.)

B.C. Ethnic History: Instructional Modules for Correctional Settings

Three fundamental/intermediate level modules will be produced and field tested at two correctional centres in the Fraser Valley. The modules will focus on the history of Blacks, Japanese, and East Indians (Sikh) in B.C. The modules will expand students' understanding of

the barriers faced by all ethnic minorities. Where appropriate, learners' histories will be incorporated into the modules. (University College of the Fraser Valley; Mt. Thurston Correctional Centre; Ford Mountain Correctional Centre).

Copies of 1997/98 Adult Literacy Cost-Shared projects: Contacts and Goals, a detailed list of all the projects are available from Literacy B.C.

Phone: 1-800-663-1293.

For further information about the cost-shared fund and application procedure contact:

Audrey Thomas
Project Officer - Developmental Programs
Colleges and Program Planning Branch
Ministry of Education, Skills and Training
P.O. Box 9177, Stn. Prov Govt
Victoria BC V8W 9H8

Phone: (250) 387-6174

Fax: (250) 356-8851

Email: Audrey.Thomas@gems5.gov.bc.ca

News from the Ministry of Education, Skills and Training

The positions of ABE and Literacy Coordinators in the Ministry of Education, Skills and Training were combined as of July 1, 1997. Audrey Thomas will fill the new position of Project Officer - Developmental Programs for the next few months.

Literacy B.C. 1997-98 Projects

We thank the B.C. Ministry of Education, Skills and Training and the National Literacy Secretariat for funding the following projects through the 1997/98 literacy cost-shared program.

Provincial Literacy Information, Referral and Resource Services

This service will:

- ◆ maintain a provincial toll-free number to provide literacy information to the field and the public, including potential learners and volunteer tutors
- ◆ distribute information about literacy and ABE programs in B.C.
- ◆ provide mailing lists to the B.C. literacy field
- ◆ inform the literacy/ABE field of current issues, events, initiatives and resources
- ◆ increase public awareness about literacy in B.C. and literacy issues

B.C. Literacy Electronic Network (Phase 3)

Literacy B.C. will continue to manage the on-line literacy network in B.C. We will:

- ◆ maintain and expand the existing services of the network
- ◆ plan the future of the network by developing a long-range strategic plan
- ◆ develop a model for the participation of learners and tutors in the network in three pilot sites in different regions of BC.

Summer Literacy Institute

This project will take place in July 1998 and will include at least three courses and a series of practical workshops. Proposed course work topics include:

- ◆ Literacy Development,
- ◆ Family Literacy
- ◆ Volunteer Tutor Program Development and Coordination.

B.C. Regional Literacy Coordination

This project will provide consultation, information and support for regional literacy coordinators, as well as professional development training for the coordinators. It will also assist with the development of community partnerships and future planning.

Projects Manager

We are looking for a Projects Manager to administer two exciting projects. This is an 11 month contract position to begin September 29, 1997. Salary is negotiable, based on experience.

The Projects Manager will:

- ◆ Coordinate and implement our regional coordination project. Duties include: consultation and support for nine regional coordinators; planning two training/meeting events; facilitating the coordinators' electronic conference.

- ◆ Coordinate and implement the 1998 Summer Literacy Institute for Literacy Practitioners.

We are looking for an energetic and committed individual with:

- ◆ previous experience in literacy/ABE education, training, curriculum and community development

- ◆ excellent skills in: facilitating, organizing, communicating, writing

- ◆ experience working with volunteers, committees, boards of directors, and adult learners

- ◆ strong computer skills including on-line systems

- ◆ experience working within a budget, financial reporting

The deadline for applications is **September 19, 1997.**

Mail or fax your resume to:

Literacy B.C.
622 - 510 West Hastings Street
Vancouver, B.C. V6B 1L8

Fax: (604) 684-8520 

Library Resource Centre Development Call for Proposals

Literacy B.C. is calling for proposals for the implementation, coordination and delivery of its library and information service. The work will be awarded on a renewable contract basis and include the following activities: installation of automation software, cataloguing of materials, importation of records, development of library policy and procedure documentation, provision of reference service, and overall development of the collection.

The individual or team awarded the contract will be responsible for the management of the in-house resource collection on behalf of Literacy B.C. The application deadline is **September 30, 1997.** Please include resume and cost and time breakdown.

For more information, contact Linda Mitchell at Literacy B.C.

Phone: 684-0624. 

**Thank you to the following individuals
and organizations who have donated
\$100 or more to Literacy B.C.**

**Marion Addison
Bruce Alexander
James Bliwas
George Ditchburn
Sue Fawcett
Paul Gallagher
Mike Harling
James Morton
Deanna Sordi**

**Beautiful B.C. Magazine
Canadian Plywood Association
Chase NDP Club
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Prince George Elks Lodge
Sun Life of Canada
Staley, Okada Chandler & Scott**

**And to those who have
contributed up to \$100:**

**Patti Bateman
Susan Baxter
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Carole Berger
Marie-Luise Berryman
Dianne Bodnar
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Tracy Defoe
Brenda Elmore
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Margaret Norman
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Eleanor Thielke
Premka Raj
Audrey Thomas
Certified General Accountants
Association of Canada
Hastings Education Centre**

Special thanks to BCTV

**Literacy B.C. would like to express
special appreciation to BCTV for their
valuable contribution to literacy.
BCTV's generous donation of broadcast
time for the LEARN campaign has
helped us to reach the many adults in
B.C. who need and want to improve
their literacy skills.**

7th Annual PGI raises over \$35,000 for Literacy B.C.

Literacy B.C. and the PGI Tournament would like to extend their heartfelt thanks to all participants, volunteers, supporters and the following sponsors:

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*A warm and special thank you to our host,
"HOCKEY NIGHT IN CANADA'S", Ron
MacLean and to all of our celebrity golfers.*

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The PGIs gratefully acknowledge the generous support of the National Literacy Secretariat and ABC CANADA

THE WORD ON THE STREET

Vancouver will host the third annual Word on the Street book and magazine fair on Sunday, September 28, 1997.

The event, designed to promote the benefits of literacy, is a day of readings, book-selling, literacy information, family fun and live entertainment. National and community-based literacy organizations will participate, as well as authors, actors, artists, and publishers.

Word on the Street takes place every year in three cities — Halifax, Toronto and Vancouver — on September 28. Admission to the event is free.

The Vancouver event, featuring over 100 exhibitors, will be held at Library Square (Central Branch of the Vancouver Public Library). Organizers expect attendance to top 35,000.

Some highlights include:

- ◆ Writers' Workshop
- ◆ Authors' Reading Tent: featuring B.C. writers
- ◆ Gutenberg's Poets' Corner

For more information, contact:

The Word on the Street
Phone: (604) 736-9065
Fax: (604) 736-9035

PACE Award Honours Literacy B.C. Director

Linda Mitchell, the Executive Director of Literacy B.C., has been recognized for her work in literacy.

Linda was presented with the 1997 award for outstanding contribution to adult education from PACE — the Pacific Association for Continuing Education. The award was presented at the PACE annual general meeting on May 6, 1997.

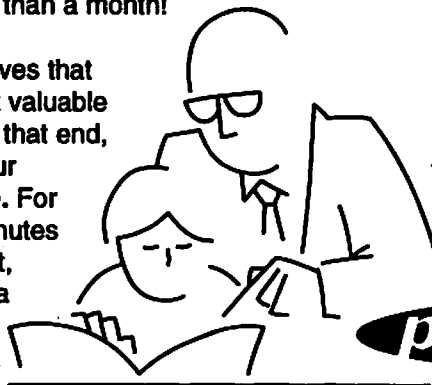
The award recognizes Linda's achievements in raising public awareness about literacy and her work as Literacy B.C.'s Executive Director since 1990.

PACE Board member Barbara McBride said when presenting the award: "Tonight we are celebrating the accomplishments of an educator whose classroom is this province, whose students are our most needy, and whose partners are more diverse than any institution. Linda has worked tirelessly and enthusiastically on behalf of adult learners — she has made a difference."

Great Books and Great Pizza . . .

At **Hammond Elementary** in **Maple Ridge**, all the kids love them. At **T.A. Swift Elementary** in **Abbotsford**, three hundred and twenty nine were each awarded one in less than a month!

Panagopoulos Pizza believes that reading is one of the most valuable skills a child can learn. To that end, we support literacy with our **Reading Award Program**. For every 20 books or 350 minutes a child reads with a parent, Panagopoulos will award a free pizza. Teachers and parents agree, receiving a Panagopoulos pizza provides great incentive for children to read.



This program is available during the school year at participating Panagopoulos locations throughout Western Canada. To find out how individual classes or entire schools can take part, teachers, librarians, and parents can call the nearest Panagopoulos location or our Head Office at 604-859-6621 local 311.



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Who We Are

Our mission is to support literacy learners, to develop community partnerships, and to present a united voice on literacy. We are supported by the B.C. Ministry of Education, Skills, and Training; Human Resources Development Canada, National Literacy Secretariat; memberships; and donations.

Here's how you can reach us:

Literacy B.C.
622 - 510 West Hastings Street
Vancouver, B.C. V6B 1L8
Phone: 1-800-663-1293 toll free in B.C.
(604) 684-0624 in the Lower Mainland
Fax: (604) 684-8520 Email: literacy_bc@douglas.bc.ca
WWW: <http://www.nald.ca/lbc.htm>

Donations to Literacy B.C. are tax deductible.